

UPDATE ON COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP LABORATORY SCHOOLS

**Presented by Secretary of Education Aimee Rogstad Guidera
to Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee**

September 14, 2022

Outline:

- Implementation update and timeline
- Planning grant guidelines overview
- Start-up and per-pupil grant guidelines overview
- Interest from eligible postsecondary entities
- Public outreach
- Questions and discussion

PURPOSE OF LAB SCHOOLS

- The statutory purpose of lab schools is to:
 - stimulate the development of **innovative education programs** for preschool through grade 12 students.
 - provide opportunities for **innovative instruction and assessment**.
 - provide **teachers** with a vehicle for establishing schools with **alternative innovative instruction and school scheduling, management, and structure**.
 - encourage the use of **performance-based educational programs**.
 - establish **high standards** for both teachers and administrators.
 - encourage greater **collaboration** between education providers from preschool to the postsecondary level.
 - develop models for **replication** in other public schools. § 22.1-349.1

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

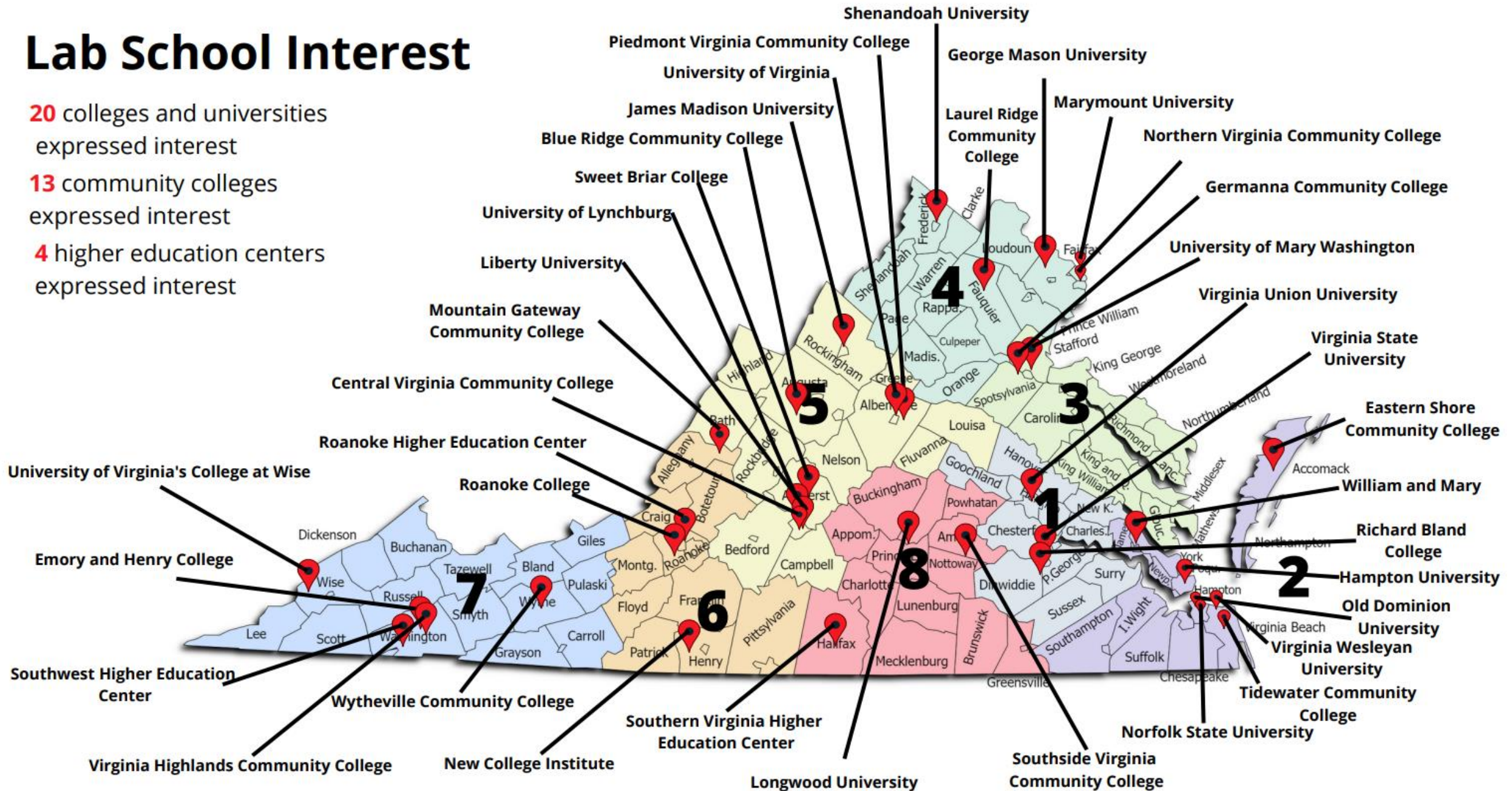
- Public institutions of higher education; higher education centers, institutes, or authorities; and private institutions eligible for Tuition Assistance Grant funds are now eligible to apply to open a lab school.
 - Expands previous definition to include community colleges, higher education centers, and no longer requires a Board-approved educator preparation programs.
 - Eligible entities can also access funds from the College Partnership Laboratory Fund.

Lab School Interest

20 colleges and universities expressed interest

13 community colleges expressed interest

4 higher education centers expressed interest



This map is a representation of the initial interest expressed by eligible applicants to the Secretariat of Education.

CURRENT STATUS

August 17, 2022

BOE approved Planning Grant Guidelines and received Start-Up and Per-Pupil Grant Guidelines for first review.

Late August 2022

VDOE published Planning Grant Application form based on BOE-approved guidelines on its website.

VDOE begins accepting and reviewing Planning Grant application submissions on a rolling basis.

**Note: An eligible postsecondary entity may apply for approval to launch a lab school at any time and regardless of receipt of a planning grant.*

NEXT STEPS TIMELINE



*Planning Grant and Start-Up and Per-Pupil Grant guidelines delegate authority to administer and award grants to VDOE to ensure submissions are processed and addressed in a timely manner.

PLANNING GRANT GUIDELINES:

Application Required Components

- Eligible entities may apply for a **one-time planning grant for up to \$200K and a term of no more than 12 months.**
 - Additional funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with available funds.
 - Estimates provide for approximately 25 planning grant awards.
- **Application required components include:**
 - General information about the proposed Lab School, including school governance and structure; facilities; mission and pedagogy; methods of assessment; and prospective student population;
 - A description of the school's proposed instructional model, including how it will improve student academic proficiency, mastery, college- and career-readiness, and long-term outcome goals;
 - A description of a plan for involvement of teachers, parents, community, organizations, employers, etc., in the planning, development, and implementation of the program; and
 - A description of how the Lab School will secure and maintain community-based partnerships (i.e. businesses, organizations, local school boards and divisions, etc.) to ensure programmatic, financial, and operational success and sustainability of the Lab School.

PLANNING GRANT GUIDELINES: *Board-Approved Rubric*

AREA OF CONSIDERATION	DESCRIPTION	POINTS AVAILABLE
Targeted Student Population(s) and Relevant Research	Application proposes intention to serve at-risk students and/or offer a new, innovative model of instruction grounded in evidence-based practices to improve student academic proficiency, mastery, college and career readiness, and long-term outcomes.	30
Clarity of Program Description Goal, and Timeline	The program description and goal are clear and attainable. Indication of programmatic, operational, and infrastructural capacity to advance an application to launch a Lab School program, as well as launch a Lab School no later than the 2024-2025 school year. Additional preference will be given to applicants with an earlier Lab School launch timeline.	20
Sustainability	Evidence of institutional commitment to the viability of a Lab School in a manner that promotes quality, innovation, program results, and sustainability.	20
Collaboration	Evidence of engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, including local school divisions, community-based organizations, employers, teachers and parents.	15
Regional and Applicant Diversity	Evidence of diversity of location, with the goal of Lab Schools in each Superintendent region. For applicant diversity, preference will be given to new applicants in the event a concurrent applicant has previously received a Planning Grant during the current application period.	15

PLANNING GRANT GUIDELINES:

Timeline and Benchmarks/Deliverables

TIMELINE	BENCHMARKS AND DELIVERABLES
On or before the end of the first quarter of the grant term	Awardee must present a proposed list of milestones, measures of success, and deliverables.
On or before the end of the second quarter of the grant term	Awardee must submit a progress report in order to be eligible for drawing down reimbursements on the second installment of the award.
On or before the end of the third quarter of the grant term	Awardee must present progress on milestones and deliverables, including submission to the Board of an application for approval to launch a Lab School.
On or before the end of the grant term	Awardee is expected to have attained approval by the Board to launch a Lab School.

LAB SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

- Once an eligible entity is prepared to launch a lab school, it must submit an application for approval to the Board of Education.
 - Details of application components are set out in § 22.1-349.5 of the *Code of Virginia*.
- Applications will be vetted through an initial VDOE-led review process, as well as by the Board's Committee on College Partnership Laboratory Schools (Standing Committee), before advancing to the Board with a recommendation.
- Once approved by the Board, the governing body of the new lab school will execute a contract with the Board.

START-UP GRANT GUIDELINES

- Approved lab schools can apply for initial **start-up grants to support one-time (not recurring) costs up to \$1M.**
 - Additional funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with available funds.
 - **Estimates provide for approximately 20 start-up grant awards.**
- Common allowable expenditures include short-term staffing during start-up and implementation, consultants, contracted services, materials and supplies, technology devices, meeting costs, necessary travel and per diems.
- Start-up grant funds may be used for limited, one-time renovation or alteration of instructional spaces to prepare them for classroom instruction, as well as purchase of classroom materials, equipment, and furnishings. **Major capital expenditures for land acquisition, new construction, or building-wide renovations are not permitted.**
- Building from its application for approval, the approved lab school will have already prepared necessary request components including a financial plan, benchmarks and deliverables, and community-based partnerships to ensure sustainability.

PER-PUPIL GRANT GUIDELINES

- “Such [per-pupil grant] guidelines shall consider and be consistent with the distribution of state funds for Standards of Quality, Categorical, Incentive and Lottery program per-pupil costs.”
 - A per-pupil operating funding grant request amount cannot exceed the average per pupil state-projected funding to educate a student, meaning the statewide average per-pupil funding, including state and local shares, for the fiscal year based on those Standards of Quality (SOQ), Categorical, Incentive and Lottery line-items designated in the current state budget for distribution on a per-pupil cost basis using March 31 average daily membership.
- Common allowable expenditures include salaries and benefits of Lab School instructional and support staff, leased facilities that include the Lab School instruction spaces, consultants, contracted services, materials and supplies, technology devices, meeting costs, necessary travel and per diems.
- **Major capital expenditures for land acquisition, new construction, or building-wide renovations are not permitted.** Initial limited renovation/alteration of classroom spaces to prepare for Lab School opening should be supported with start-up grant funds.
- Again, building from its application for approval, the approved lab school will have already prepared necessary request components including a financial plan, benchmarks and deliverables, and community-based partnerships to ensure sustainability.
 - The lab school will also need to provide details of enrollment numbers to finalize award amount. The per-pupil operating funding grant amount will not decrease if, as of March 31, enrollment decreases by 20 percent or less than the awardee’s initial pupil enrollment estimate.

Webinar Outreach

- The Secretary's Office is hosting informational webinars with Lab School Stakeholders.
- Completed and planned webinars include:
 - Superintendents (Virginia Association of State Superintendents)—8/31
 - K-12 Stakeholders (PTA, Principals, Local School Boards)—9/6
 - Eligible Postsecondary Entities—9/20
 - Partners in Business and Industry—9/20
 - Legislators—TBD

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

APPENDIX:

Planning grant application excerpt: *Sustainability*

H. SUSTAINABILITY

1. The goal of the Planning Grant program is to support public institutions of higher education; public higher education centers, institutes, or authorities; or eligible institutions of higher education as defined in the Tuition Assistance Grant Program, as defined in § 23.1-628, as they develop and implement programs in order to create or improve capacity to operate and sustain a Lab School independently of long-term state funding, and in a manner that promotes quality, innovation, and program results.
2. Please describe the capacity of your public institution of higher education; public higher education center, institute, or authority; or eligible institution to implement a Lab School:
Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Identify potential affiliates, partners, and describe potential sustainable funding sources:
Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Identify potential barriers to the planning process and possible ways to address them:
Click or tap here to enter text.

Planning grant application excerpt: *Collaboration*

G. COLLABORATION AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

1. Describe the involvement of local school divisions, community-based organizations, employers, teachers, and parents in the planning, development, and implementation of the proposed program:

Click or tap here to enter text.

2. If the Lab School is going to be in partnership with a local school division(s), please describe the partnership briefly:

Click or tap here to enter text; enter 'not applicable' if there is not a partnership with a local school division(s) for the Lab School.

Planning grant application excerpt: *Regional and Applicant Diversity*

D. REGIONAL AND APPLICANT DIVERSITY

1. Planning Grants will be awarded in a manner that encourages ready access to Lab School options and the establishment of Lab Schools in each of the Department's [eight Superintendent regions](#).
2. Indicate Proposed Name(s) of Lab School: Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Identify Proposed Physical Location(s) of Lab School: Click or tap here to enter text.